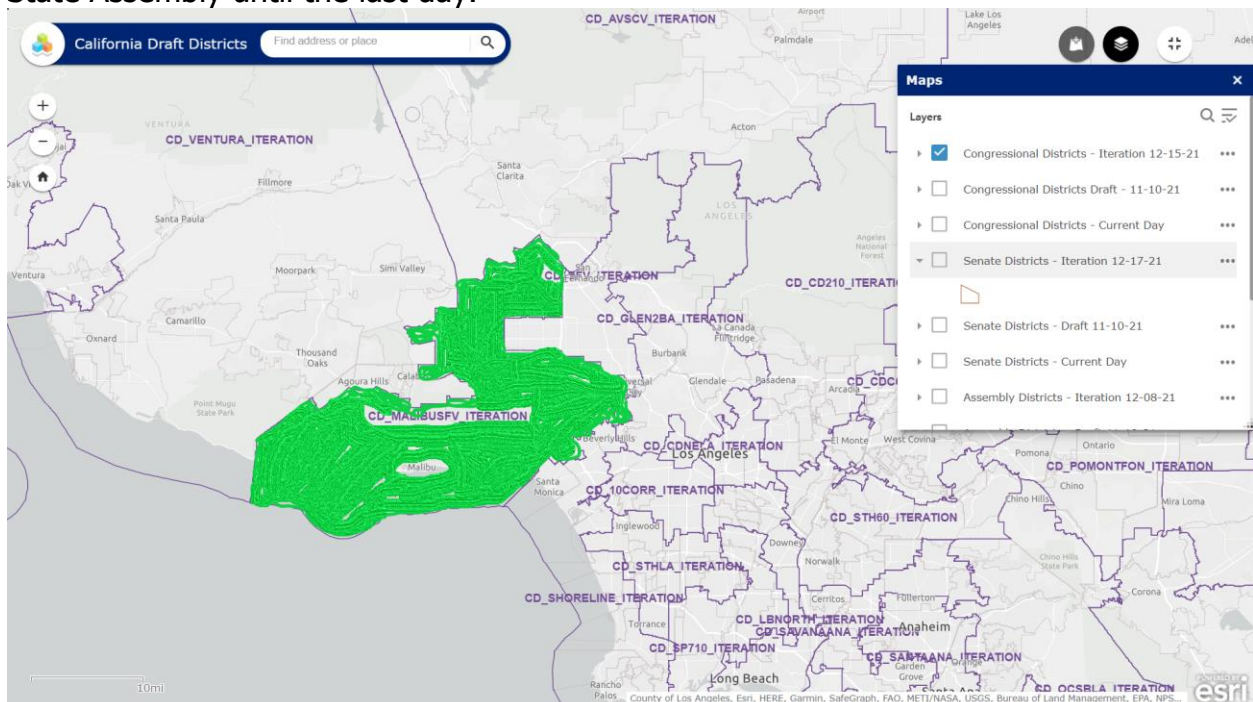


West Hills was being gerrymandered with the Santa Clarita and Antelope Valley for the State Assembly until the last day.



This is my State Senate District - you can call it my "shape file". I hope that you see what I see - a Dragon! I colored the District with MS Paint.

You should know that I tried to keep pretty good notes during your meetings.

Please see "Sheila's email" below.

Happy Holidays!

Respectfully,

Chris Rowe

From: **Sheila Kuehl** <sheila@bos.lacounty.gov>

Date: Thu, Dec 16, 2021 at 10:29 AM

Subject: LAC Independent Redistricting Comm Adopts Final Map: What the*^%#*} Happened?



Five years ago, a handful of cardboard Democrats in the California Legislature (think of them as the Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema of Sacramento) brought a bill to impose an independent redistricting commission on just one of the 58 counties in California—ours.

Of course everyone thought it sounded like good government. After all, the Los Angeles County Redistricting Commission would be comprised, by design, of folks with no political drive or connection, little understanding of map drawing and no contact with electeds. What could possibly go wrong?

As it turned out Wednesday night, practically everything.

Over the entire last year, the Commissioners toiled in public, took public testimony, perused map after map after map, more than 100 in all, and paid close attention to numbers and demographics and communities of interest.

As the December 15 deadline drew nearer and nearer, meetings continued and consensus was built. The focus of final consideration was narrowed down to just two maps. Then, suddenly, last weekend, after all public comment had concluded, one Commissioner introduced a new, previously unseen and unconsidered map, totally different from the two finalists, especially in its redistricting of the northern part of the County, the districts now represented by myself and Supervisor Barger.

Commissioners were suddenly convinced to abandon communities of interest, all intelligent considerations of months past, and hours upon hours of public comment. A new map was approved that totally upended those previously put forward. Supervisor Barger's Fifth District would inexplicably extend south absorbing landmarks such as the Hollywood Bowl, the Ford Theatres, and

Universal Studios, while the Third District which I represent would extend north and west from Santa Monica out to Chatsworth and up to Porter Ranch. No one stopped to wonder why it made sense to separate the Hollywood Bowl from the rest of Hollywood, but that's what this new map proposed, and despite critical public comment just hours before the deadline (the first opportunity the public was given to weigh in, and tightly controlled and limited by the Commission), the Commissioners voted to approve the map that came out of nowhere last weekend.

To begin to make any sense out of this abrupt abandonment of rational process, it's important to understand who would benefit from putting this trick over on the Commission, which is not supposed to think about politics by design.

Yet, politics is just what is in play here.

The result of this last-minute marauding is that my District becomes far more centrist (as in, bye-bye any reform to our justice system), a much easier district for a man who's been salivating to run for the office but found himself in need of an electorate more closely tailored to his politics. He will likely follow some who innocently jump in but the damage is done to the District. Supervisor Barger's District, on the other hand, conveniently loses just the right number of conservatives, making her district more fitting for another ambitious candidate, a man who is conveniently a close associate of the commissioner who brought in the mystery map.

It's like a shell game where the public is told, "Don't look under the shells." As the New York Times pointed out not long ago, the ultra-conservative think tank that came up with independent redistricting commissions (and term limits and top two) and which then sold them to a public just hoping for a little integrity and

sunshine in government, knew that only the Blue States would be foolish enough to use such tools, since the less you know about how districts affect elections, the more qualified you are for the commission, and that makes you amenable to creative manipulation.

The result of that manipulation was revealed this past Sunday and ended Wednesday night. Two non-progressive men, middle-of-the-road Democrats who hope to be Supervisors used the Commission to shape their own dream districts.

Ironically, this putatively apolitical and oh-so transparent Redistricting Commission's final accomplishment was the rushed adoption of a strategically manipulated 11th-hour map. Commissioners who voted for this map: shame on you.

PS: don't get me started on what happened to the three other districts.